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25X1

15 July 1946

Country: Germany/Russian Zone & Latvia
Subject: Condition of Baltic Ports

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Stettin

1. Full activities and practically normal traffic was expected to be resumed in the harbor in Stettin in February 1946. The moles and cranes had already been repaired and were useable but the warehouses and depots were still in a state of dereliction. Inside the harbor there are entire factory installations and every variety of machine, raw materials, semi-manufactured metallurgical products, and non-ferrous metals heaped along the wharves awaiting conveyance to the U.S.S.R.

Swinemünde

2. The harbor has been cleared to some extent and the Russians have installed floating units which are used for the raising of sunken ships and warships. Each of these units is to include three or four German minesweepers of the FUGAS type. Two units were being assembled in February 1946.

Rindau

3. This harbor was unharmed and is in full working order. All the important defense installations of the port which the Germans erected during their occupation are untouched. All the work in the port and on the re-loading of cargoes is carried out by PW's. Traffic in the port is not very extensive and consists of the unloading of German factory equipment after conveyance from Germany. A large Soviet garrison is stationed in the town.

Lithau

4. In February 1946 the southern basins of this harbor were in full commission and the so-called "commercial port" was almost entirely jammed with wrecks; at that time, no work had been started on clearing the wreckage.

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5. The part of the harbor known as the ~~inner~~ harbor is the north of the port, which was not used by the Germans, is in good condition and fit for use. In February 1946 the Russians were keeping at ~~least~~ ships captured from the Germans or handed over by the Germans to the Russians, such as the cruiser NURENBERG and approximately 150 various light German naval units (such as mine-sweepers, ~~etc.~~, assault craft, and landing craft). There were no submarines.
6. Traffic in the harbor is almost ~~normal~~. Ships arrive with dismantled German and Polish factories and also with sugar and fats. They are conveyed by three German merchantmen of 10,000 tons each and by tanks and floating ferries. In February the harbor was jammed with this material, which was very slowly being moved further east by rail. Some ferries had actually been loaded with this equipment and sent to Leningrad.
7. The Russians had not erected (and they did not intend to erect) any new fortifications in the harbor or in its vicinity, but they installed coastal and anti-aircraft artillery.
8. Discipline in the large Soviet garrison stationed in Litu is poor; soldiers sell military equipment, kits, and stolen articles in exchange for vodka, watches, and other things.
9. All work in the harbor and on the re-loading of cargoes is done by PW's and under the strict surveillance of Soviet troops. The harbor is fully protected and controlled. Upon arrival, every ship is searched thoroughly by the NKVD.

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